

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 03448 131034Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /027 W
-----119297 140210Z /63

R 131030Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5937
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS VIENNA 03448

UNIDO

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: AORG, UN
SUBJECT: UN ADMINISTRATION: SALARIES FOR UN OFFICIALS

REF: (A) STATE 55997; (B) STATE 82906

1. MISSION HAS DISCUSSED CONCERNS ABOUT HIGH UN SALARIES WITH SEVERAL SENIOR UNIDO OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER MISSIONS. PERMREP HAS NOT HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WHO IS ON THE ROAD THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF APRIL, BUT WILL TRY TO DO SO AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

2. UNIDO STAFFERS, AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, DEFEND THEIR OWN SALARY LEVELS AS BEING IN LINE WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND WITH WHAT IS REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN AN ADEQUATE, BUT BY NO MEANS LUXURIOUS, STANDARD OF LIVING IN VIENNA. THEY COMPLAIN ABOUT THE HIGH COST OF EVERY DAY LIVING HERE, THE DIFFICULTY AND EXPENSE OF FINDING AND MAINTAINING ACCEPTABLE QUARTERS, THE NEED TO SEND CHILDREN LONG DISTANCES FOR ADVANCED SCHOOLING, THE PROBLEMS OF COPING IN A GERMAN-
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SPEAKING ENVIRONMENT, AND IN SOME CASES THE PSYCHIC COSTS OF RAISING A FAMILY IN AN ALIEN CULTURE.

3. OTHER MISSIONS SHOW LITTLE INTEREST IN THE PROBLEM. SOME SAY THEIR HOME FINANCE MINISTRIES WORRY ABOUT THE INCREASING COST OF FUNDING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, BUT THIS IS NOT AN ISSUE WITH WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN SEIZED

DIRECTLY, EXCEPT IN THE GENERAL SENSE OF ATTEMPTING TO ENSURE THAT UNIDO'S WORK PROGRAM IS USEFUL AND EFFICIENT. SOME POINT OUT THAT THE DEPRECIATION OF THE DOLLAR IN RECENT YEARS HAS CHANGED EUROPEAN PERCEPTIONS OF DOLLAR-DENOMINATED SALARIES; THEY NO LONGER SEEM AS LARGE AS THEY ONCE DID.

4. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT UNIDO IS PART OF THE UN SECRETARIAT AND ITS SALARY LEVELS AND BUDGET ARE DETERMINED IN NEW YORK. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WHO HAS RANK EQUIVALENT TO UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL, IS THE ONLY STAFF MEMBER ABOVE THE D-2 LEVEL. LEARY

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